

REMARKS

In the April 7, 2010 final Office Action, Claims 1-15, 17-19, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). In addition, Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

By this paper, Applicant has amended Claim 1 in order to respond to the Examiner's rejection of Claim 1 under Section 112, second paragraph. In particular, the amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the screw is loosened prior to removal of the of the bridge and the second sleeve shaped part. Applicant believes that this amendment clarifies the subject matter and addresses the concern raised by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that the present Amendment should be entered after the issuance of the final Office Action because the amendment to Claim 1 simplifies the issues for appeal and does not raise new matter or new issues that would require further consideration or search by the Examiner.

Applicant further submits that although arguments or amendments have or have not been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby. Applicant has not addressed the rejections under Section 103(a) as these issues will be addressed subsequently during an appeal. Rather, the amendments are made only to place the Application in better form for appeal, and without prejudice to presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims on the subject matter affected thereby. Applicant also has not presented arguments concerning whether the applied references can be properly combined in view of, among other things, clearly missing elements, and Applicant reserves the right to later contest whether a proper reason exists to combine these references and to submit indicia of non-obviousness.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claim and drawings in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Application No.: 10/584,426
Filing Date: May 23, 2007

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: June 9, 2010

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